UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

UNITED STATES OF AMERI	ICA)	
v.)	Crim. No. 05-40025-FDS
MATTHEW MARSH, et al,)	
Ι	Defendants.)	
)	

GOVERNMENT'S OPPOSITION TO DEFENDANT'S MOTION IN LIMINE TO EXCLUDE EVIDENCE OF DEFENDANT'S PRIOR CONVICTIONS

The United States of America (the "government") hereby files its Opposition to the *Motion* in Limine to Exclude Evidence of Defendant's Prior Convictions filed by the defendant Matthew Marsh ("Defendant" or "Marsh") on August 1, 12006. For the reasons set forth below, Defendant's motion should be denied.

I. RELEVANT FACTS

Marsh and his co-defendant Nydia Bernabel, a/k/a "Nonni," a/k/a "Nanni," ("Bernabel") are charged with conspiracy to distribute at least 5 grams of cocaine base, also known as "crack cocaine," in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 846 (Count One) and two substantive counts of distributing cocaine base, also known as "crack cocaine," in violation of 21 U.S.C. §841(a)(1) (Counts 2 and 3). With respect to the conspiracy charge, the government intends to establish that Marsh knowingly and voluntarily agreed to assist Bernabel in distributing crack cocaine in the greater Fitchburg area in order to feed his own crack cocaine habit. The evidence will show that Marsh played a substantial role in their drug distribution activities, including: (i) driving Bernabel (who did not have a valid driver's license) to deliver controlled substances to customers throughout the Fitchburg area, (ii) handling the packages of drugs during their joint deliveries, and (iii) counting and/or holding the money they received from customers during their drug transactions. The evidence will

also show that Marsh received crack cocaine for his personal use in exchange for his role in the conspiracy.

The conspiracy involved participants other than Marsh and Bernabel. A mutual friend named Karen Iovanne, for example, allowed Marsh and Bernabel to live with her at various points before and during the conspiracy. Iovanne, who used crack cocaine along with Marsh, allowed Bernabel and Marsh to use her cell phone and 1996 Jeep Cherokee to further their drug dealing activities. Like Marsh, Iovanne would receive crack cocaine in exchange for her role in the conspiracy.

On October 21, 2004, an undercover agent employed by the Drug Enforcement Administration ("UC-1") was introduced to Bernabel, who sold 3.3 grams of crack cocaine to UC-1 in exchange for \$300. Bernabel used the cell phone subscribed to Iovanne – (978) 580-6051 – to arrange this drug transaction. She told UC-1, however, that she was not "working" that night, so she would send somebody else to deliver the crack cocaine for her. UC-1 met Bernabel's couriers on Leighton Street in Fitchburg, where he gave the couriers \$300 in exchange for the crack.

With respect to Count Two, the government will prove that Marsh and Bernabel delivered crack cocaine to UC-1 on a second occasion at that same location – Leighton Street in Fitchburg. Specifically, the government will show that at approximately 5:00 p.m., Bernabel (who UC-1 contacted at the same cell phone used to arrange the October 21st deal discussed above) agreed to meet UC-1 on Leighton Street to sell him \$320 worth of crack cocaine. UC-1 drove an undercover vehicle to the intersection of Leighton and Kimball Streets, where he waited for Bernabel to arrive. At approximately 5:50 p.m., a 1996 Jeep Cherokee bearing MA License No. 6815MX (which was registered to Iovanne) pulled up next to UC-1's undercover vehicle.

UC-1 observed Bernabel in the driver's seat and a heavy set male, who was subsequently identified as Marsh, in the passenger seat. Before they discussed the crack deal, Bernabel received a call on her cell phone, which she quickly concluded. UC-1 then asked Bernabel how the crack cocaine rocks looked, at which point Marsh handed a package of crack to Bernabel, who displayed it to UC-1. UC-1 then handed \$300 to Bernabel, who passed it to Marsh, who immediately began counting the money. Bernabel received two more cell phone calls while Marsh was counting the money. UC-1 then asked if all eight (referring to the eight .4-gram packages he had requested) were there. Bernabel responded, "no, there's \$300 worth there." The sale was then complete and Bernabel and Marsh sped away in the Jeep Cherokee at a high rate of speed.

With respect to Count Three, the evidence will show that a second transaction took place on November 9, 2004, approximately 40 minutes later on Birch Street in Fitchburg, near St. Anthony's School. At approximately 6:30 p.m., a second undercover DEA agent ("UC-2"), who was working with a confidential witness ("CW"), purchased 4.7 grams of crack cocaine from the defendants. Once again, the defendants arrived in the 1996 Jeep Cherokee registered to Iovanne, which they pulled up alongside the undercover vehicle. This time, Marsh was driving the Jeep and Bernabel was riding in the passenger seat. After the CW introduced UC-2 to Bernabel, she handed a package of crack cocaine to UC-2, who handed her \$600 in serialized funds in return. Marsh then drove the Jeep Cherokee away from the area.

Both of the foregoing transactions were audio-recorded, video-recorded, and observed by numerous surveillance agents, including both DEA agents and local Fitchburg Police Officers, who were working collaboratively with DEA as DEA "Task Force Agents" ("TFA's"). Shortly after the second transaction, Fitchburg Patrol Officer Kenneth W. Gaetz, Jr., received a call from one of the Fitchburg Police Officers assigned to the undercover Drug Task Force. The TFA asked Officer

Gaetz for assistance in locating and stopping the Jeep Cherokee. After locating the Jeep Cherokee and observing two traffic violations, Officer Gaetz performed a car stop. After receiving identification from the driver (Marsh) and the passenger (Bernabel), Officer Gaetz discovered that both individuals had outstanding arrest warrants. Both defendants were then arrested and searched. Officers discovered \$400 on Bernabel which came from the DEA serialized drug money used by UC-2 during the 4.7-gram crack deal described above.

II. ARGUMENT

On August 1, 2006, the government filed a *Motion in Limine to Introduce Evidence of Defendant's Prior Drug Activity*. See Docket Entry No. 67. For all of the reasons set forth in that motion, the government seeks to introduce:

- (1) evidence of Marsh's prior drug convictions, which include a 1995 conviction for conspiracy to import crack cocaine and possession with intent to distribute crack cocaine. See United States v. Matthew Marsh, et al, Docket No. 95-10244-REK. A copy of the certified Judgment of Conviction is attached hereto as Exhibit A. Copies of the reports underlying this conviction are also being produced to defense counsel simultaneously with the filing of this Opposition.
- (2) evidence of Marsh's historical drug activities just outside the conspiracy period charged in the indictment, which includes evidence of Marsh's historical drug dealing activities with Bernabel.

For all of the reasons set forth in the government's *Motion in Limine to Introduce Evidence* of *Defendant's Prior Drug Activity*, which is hereby incorporated by reference herein, Marsh's instant motion should be denied. <u>See</u> Docket Entry No. 67. The government will produce a

certified copy of Marsh's prior drug conviction at trial and will supplement its Witness List (to include any necessary witness(es) concerning Marsh's prior conviction) in a timely fashion.

III. <u>CONCLUSION</u>

For all of the foregoing reasons, Defendant Matthew Marsh's the *Motion in Limine to*Exclude Evidence of Defendant's Prior Conviction(s) should be denied.

Dated: August 24, 2006 Respectfully submitted,

MICHAEL J. SULLIVAN United States Attorney

By: <u>/s/ Lisa M. Asiaf</u>

LISA M. ASIAF Assistant U.S. Attorney Tel: (617) 748-3268

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that this document filed through the ECF system will be sent electronically to the registered participants as identified on the Notice of Electronic Filing (NEF) and paper copies will be sent to those indicated as non-registered participants on August 24, 2006.

_______/s/ Lisa M. Asiaf LISA M. ASIAF

United States District

District of Massachusetts

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

V.

MATTHEW MARSH

JUDGMENT IN A CRIM

(For Offenses Committed On d

Case Number: 1:95CR10244-003

-REK

				James F. Duggan, Esq.		
THE DEFENDAN	Т:			Defendant's Attorney		
pleaded guilty to	count(s) S1 - S3					
pleaded noto co which was accept	ntendere to count(s ed by the court.)			<u> Deckett</u>	<u>U</u>
was found guilty after a plea of n					Date Offense	Count
Title & Section		<u>Natu</u>	re of Offense		Concluded	Number(s)
21 U.S.C. § 963		Cons	piracy to Impor	rt Cocaine Base	07/16/1995	S1
21 U.S.C. § 952		Impo	rtation of Coca	ine Base	07/16/1995	S2
21 U.S.C. § 841 (a)	T)	Posse Base	ssion with Inter	nt to Distribute Cocaine	07/16/1995	S3
21 U.S.C. § 841 (b)	T)(A)iii	Posse Base	ssion with Inter	nt to Distribute Cocaine	07/16/1995	S1-S3
IT IS FURTHER	ORDERED that the	defend	lant shall notify	e) dismissed on the motion the United States Attorne es, restitution, costs, and s	y for this district wit	hin 30 days of
judgment are fully paid	i .					·
Defendant's Soc. Sec. No.:				09/06/1996		
Defendant's Date of Birth:				Date of imposition of Judgment		
Defendant's USM No.: Defendant's Residence Addi	20687-038			D A	- V 1	
28 Beacon Street, #2	635 .			Kobert	Lectar	
28 Deacon Street, #2				Signature of Judicial Officer	, o	
Fitchburg,	M		01420	Robert E. Keeton		
ritenburg,		<u> </u>	01420	United States District Ju	udge	
Defendant's Mailing Address	:			Name & Title of Judicial Officer		
28 Beacon Street, #2						
				10/1/96		
Fitchburg,	M	A	01420	Date		7

———, with a certified copy of this judgment.

UNITED STATES MARSHAL

Deputy U.S. Marshal

By

Defendant delivered on _____

Judgment-Page 3 of 6

DEFENDANT:

MATTHEW MARSH

CASE NUMBER:

1:95CR10244-003

SUPERVISED RELEASE

Upon release from imprisonment, the defendant shall be on supervised release for a term of ______60 ____month(s) ____

The defendant shall report to the probation office in the district to which the defendant is released within 72 hours of release from the custody of the Bureau of Prisons.

The defendant shall not commit another federal, state, or local crime.

The defendant shall not illegally possess a controlled substance.

For offenses committed on or after September 13, 1994:

The defendant shall refrain from any unlawful use of a controlled substance. The defendant shall submit to one drug test within 15 days of release from imprisonment and at least two periodic drug tests thereafter, as directed by the probation officer.

The above drug testing condition is suspended based on the court's determination that the defendant poses a low risk of future substance abuse. (Check, if applicable.)

The defendant shall not possess a firearm as defined in 18 U.S.C.
 § 921. (Check, if applicable.)

If this judgment imposes a fine or a restitution obligation, it shall be a condition of supervised release that the defendant pay any such fine or restitution that remains unpaid at the commencement of the term of supervised release in accordance with the Schedule of Payments set forth in the Criminal Monetary Penalties sheet of this judgment.

The defendant shall comply with the standard conditions that have been adopted by this court (set forth below). The defendant shall also comply with the additional conditions on the attached page (if indicated below).

See Special Conditions of Supervision - Sheet 3.01

STANDARD CONDITIONS OF SUPERVISION

- 1) the defendant shall not leave the judicial district without the permission of the court or probation officer;
- the defendant shall report to the probation officer and shall submit a truthful and complete written report within the first five days of each month;
- 3) the defendant shall answer truthfully all inquiries by the probation officer and follow the instructions of the probation officer:
- 4) the defendant shall support his or her dependents and meet other family responsibilities;
- 5) the defendant shall work regularly at a lawful occupation unless excused by the probation officer for schooling, training, or other acceptable reasons;
- 6) the defendant shall notify the probation officer ten days prior to any change in residence or employment;
- 7) the defendant shall refrain from excessive use of alcohol;
- 8) the defendant shall not frequent places where controlled substances are illegally sold, used, distributed, or administered;
- 9) the defendant shall not associate with any persons engaged in criminal activity, and shall not associate with any person convicted of a felony unless granted permission to do so by the probation officer;
- 10) the defendant shall permit a probation officer to visit him or her at any time at home or elsewhere and shall permit confiscation of any contraband observed in plain view of the probation officer;
- 11) the defendant shall notify the probation officer within seventy-two hours of being arrested or questioned by a law enforcement officer;
- 12) the defendant shall not enter into any agreement to act as an informer or a special agent of a law enforcement agency without the permission of the court;
- 13) as directed by the probation officer, the defendant shall notify third parties of risks that may be occasioned by the defendant's criminal record or personal history or characteristics, and shall permit the probation officer to make such

Case 4:05-cr-40025-FDS Document 75-2
AO 245B (Rev. 3/95) Sheet 3 - Supervised Release

Filed 08/24/2006

Page 4 of 15

DEFENDANT:

MATTHEW MARSH

-CASE NUMBER:

1:95CR10244-003

SPECIAL CONDITIONS OF SUPERVISION

The defendant is to participate in a program for substance abuse as directed by the Chief U.S. Probation Officer, which program may include testing to determine whether the defendant has reverted to the use of alcohol or drugs.

The defendant is to participate in a mental health program as directed by the Chief U.S. Probation Officer.

Filed 08/24/2006 Page 5 of 15

					Judgment-Page 4 of 6
DEFENDANT:	MATTHEW MARSH				
CASE NUMBER:	1:95CR10244-003				
	CRIM	INAL MONE	TARY PENAL	TIES	
The defendant forth on Sheet 5, Pa		tal criminal mone	tary penalties in acc	cordance with t	he schedule of payments set
		<u>Assessment</u>	•	<u>Fine</u>	<u>Restitution</u>
Totals:	\$	150.00	\$	\$	
If applicable, r	estitution amount ordered	pursuant to plea	agreement	\$	
	F				
		Fil	NE		
The above fine inclu	ides costs of incarceration	and/or supervisio	n in the amount of	\$	•
after the date of judg	shall pay interest on any fil gment, pursuant to 18 U.S and delinquency pursuan	S.C. § 3612(f). All	of the payment opt		Il before the fifteenth day 5, Part B may be subject to
The court dete	rmined that the defendant	does not have the	e ability to pay inter	est and it is ord	lered that:
The interes	est requirement is waived.				
The intere	est requirement is modified	as follows:			
		RESTIT	TITION		
The determinate	tion of restitution is deferre			109A. 110. 110	DA and 113A of Title 18 for
offenses comm will be entered	nitted on or after 09/13/199 after such determination.	94, until	. An Amende	d Judgment in	0A and 113A of Title 18 for a Criminal Case
The defendant	shall make restitution to th	ne following payee	es in the amounts li	sted below.	
	makes a partial payment, the priority order or perce			mately proport	ional payment unless Priority Order
·			** Total	Amou	unt of Percentage of
Name of Payee			Amount of Los	<u>Restitutio</u>	n Ordered Payment
		Totals: \$		_ \$	
	total amount of losses are r September 13, 1994.	e required under C	Chapters 109A, 110), 110A, and 11	I3A of Title 18 for offenses

The defendant shall pay the cost of prosecution.

The defendant shall forfeit the defendant's interest in the following property to the United States:

Unless the court has expressly ordered otherwise in the special instructions above, if this judgment imposes a period of imprisonment payment of criminal monetary penalties shall be due during the period of imprisonment. All criminal monetary penalty payments are to be made to the United States Courts National Fine Center, Administrative Office of the United States Courts, Washington, DC 20544, except those payments made through the Bureau of Prisons' Inmate Financial Responsibility Program. If the National Fine Center is not operating in this district, all criminal monetary penalty payments are to be made as

The sentence departs from the guideline range:upon motion of the government, as a result of defendant's substantial assistance.

for the following specific reason(s):

See Memorandum of Sentencing Hearing and Report of Statement of Reasons Attached.

(9/8/89)

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

٧.

CRIMINAL NO. 95-10244-REK

MATTHEW MARSH,

Defendant

MEMORANDUM OF SENTENCING HEARING AND REPORT OF STATEMENT OF REASONS

KEETON, D.J.

Counsel and the defendant were present for sentencing hearing on SEPTEMBER 6, 1996. The matters set forth were reviewed and considered. The reasons for sentence pursuant to Title 18 U.S.C. §3553(c), as set forth herein, were stated in open court:

Was the presentence investigation report (PSI)

	reviewed by counsel and defendant including any additional materials received concerning sentencing?	XYes	N
2.(a)	Was information withheld pursuant to FRCrP 32(c)(3)(A)?	YesX	N
(b)	If yes to (a), has summary been provided by the court pursuant to FRCrP 32(c)(3)(B)?	Yes1	Νo

3.(a)	Were all factual statements contained in the			
	PSI adopted without objection?	Yes	X_	_No

(b) If no to (a) the PSI was adopted in part with the exception of the following factual issues in dispute:

¶40 MODIFIED FROM \$2,000 TO \$1,000 PER TRIP. OTHERWISE, THE FACTUAL STATEMENTS ARE CORRECT AND ARE ADOPTED.

ALSO, ¶47 CHANGED TO -4, "MINIMAL" PARTICIPANT, AS JOINTLY RECOMMENDED.

THIS CHANGES ¶50 TO 30, AND ¶52 TO 27, TOTAL OFFENSE LEVEL.

AS TO DEFENSE MOTION FOR DOWNWARD DEPARTURE, I CONCLUDE THAT UNDER <u>UNITED STATES</u> V. <u>GRANDMAISON</u>, THE COURT DOES HAVE AUTHORITY FOR DOWNWARD DEPARTURE. FOLLOWING THE STEP-ANALYSIS OF <u>UNITED STATES</u> V. <u>RIVERA</u>, I CONCLUDE THAT DEPARTURE IS AUTHORIZED AND FACTUAL SUPPORT FOR PROPOSED DEPARTURE WARRANTS THIS EXERCISE OF DISCRETION. I FIND DEPARTURE APPROPRIATE, IN VIEW OF FACTORS PRESENTED IN PART II.8-14 OF DEFENDANT'S MOTION, WHICH I CREDIT.

(c)	follows after evidentiary hearing, further submissions and/or arguments:
4.(a)	Are any legal issues in dispute?Yes _XNo
	If yes, describe disputed issues and their resolution:
5.(a)	Is there any dispute as to guideline applications (such as offense level, criminal history category, fine or restitution) as stated in the PSI? YesX_No
	If yes, describe disputed areas and their resolution:
(b)	Tentative findings as to applicable guidelines are
	Total Offense Level: 27
	Criminal History Category:I
	70 to 87 months imprisonment DEFENDANT AVOIDS 10 YEAR MANDATORY MINIMUM; QUALIFIES FOR SAFETY VALVE UNDER 18 U.S.C. §3553 AND GUIDELINE §5C1.2.
	60 to 60 months supervised release
	\$ 12,500 to \$ 12,000,000 fine (plus \$ 14,520 cost of annual imprisonment/supervision)
	\$ restitution
	\$150 special assessment (\$_50_ on COUNTS 1, 2, 3)

6.(a)	Are there any legal objections to tentative findings?	YesXNo	
(b)	If no, findings are adopted by the Court.		
(c)	If yes, describe objections and how they were addressed: OR sentence hearing is continued to	<u>.</u>	
	1		
7.(a)	Remarks by counsel for defendant.*	XYesNo	
(b)	Defendant speaks on own behalf.	XYesNo	
(c)	Remarks by counsel for government. *The order of argument and/or may be altered to accord with	X Yes No recommendations and allocution the Court's practice.	or

 48	months imprisonment
 	months/intermittent community confinement
 	months probation
 60	months supervised release
\$ 	fine (including cost of imprisonment/supervision)
\$ 	restitution
\$ 150	special assessment (\$_50_ on COUNTS 1, 2,

ON COUNTS 1, 2, AND 3 CONCURRENTLY:

48 MONTHS IN CUSTODY OF BUREAU OF PRISONS, FOLLOWED BY 60 MONTHS SUPERVISED RELEASE. \$150 SPECIAL ASSESSMENT, BEING \$50 ON EACH COUNT.

NO FINE BECAUSE OF LACK OF RESOURCES. RESTITUTION N/A.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS OF SUPERVISED RELEASE:

- THE DEFENDANT IS PROHIBITED FROM POSSESSING A FIREARM OR OTHER DANGEROUS WEAPON.
- 2. THE DEFENDANT IS TO PARTICIPATE IN A PROGRAM FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE AS DIRECTED BY THE UNITED STATES PROBATION OFFICE, WHICH PROGRAM MAY INCLUDE TESTING TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE DEFENDANT HAS REVERTED TO THE USE OF ALCOHOL OR DRUGS.
- 3. THE DEFENDANT IS TO PARTICIPATE IN A MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM AS DIRECTED BY THE UNITED STATES PROBATION OFFICE.

RECOMMENDATION:

8.

ASSIGNMENT TO BOOT CAMP PROGRAM, IF FEASIBLE.

FINDING:

DEFENDANT HAS BEEN IN CUSTODY UNDER THESE CHARGES FROM JULY 16, 1995, TO AUGUST 4, 1995, AND AGAIN FEBRUARY 7, 1996, TO PRESENT.

9.	Statement of reasons for imposing sentence. Check appropriate space:
(a)	Sentence is within the guideline range and that range does not exceed 24 months and the Court finds no reason to depart from the sentence called for by application of the guidelines.
OR	Sentence is within the guideline range and that range exceeds 24 months and the reasons for imposing the selected sentence are:
(b) <u>X</u>	_Sentence departs from the guideline range as a result of
	substantial cooperation upon motion of the government
	OR
	X a finding that the following (aggravating or mitigating) circumstance exists that is of a kind or degree not adequately taken into consideration by the Sentencing Commission in formulating the guidelines and that this circumstance should result in a sentence different from that described by the guidelines for the following reasons:
	FINDING WITH RESPECT TO ABERRANT BEHAVIOR.
(c)	YesYes
	Is full restitution imposed?YesNo
	If no, less than full restitution is imposed for the following reasons:

11. Suggestions for guideline revisions resulting from this case are submitted by an attachment to this report.

Yes X No

- 12. The PSI is adopted as part of the record, either in whole or in part as discussed above and is to be maintained by the U.S. Probation Department under seal unless required for appeal.
- 13. Judgment will be prepared by the clerk in accordance with above.
- 14. The clerk will provide this Memorandum of Sentencing Hearing And Report of Statement of Reasons to the U.S. Probation Department for forwarding to the Sentencing Commission, and if the above sentence includes a term of imprisonment, to the Bureau of Prisons.